



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

DHR Board
Friday, October 18, 2013
9 a.m.
Department of Public Safety, 215 E. 7th St., Des Moines, Public Conference Room 1st Floor

Members Present: Jill Olsen, Jason Glass, Floyd Winter, Sherri Soich, Karen Mackey, Ben Jung, Anna Brown, Sen. Rita Hart (ex-officio), San Wong (ex-officio)

Members Absent: LaSheila Yates, Joan Jaimes, Jennifer Upah, Redmond Jones, Rep. Garrett, Sen. Sorenson, Rep. Thede

Guests: Ann Hughes, Office of the Governor; Heidi Smith, Deputy Director; Mary Bowser, budget analyst; Paul Stageberg, CJPJ Administrator; Bill Brand, DCAA Administrator; Danielle Plogmann, staff; Jenni Klise, staff.

Call to order: Chair Olsen called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Motion: Winter moved to approve the September 13, 2013 meeting minutes.

Second: Mackey seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Director Wong presented the Department's FY2013 annual report for the Board's approval. Wong explained the Department has a responsibility to be efficient with funds and the department's most important job is to be impactful. When asked about vacancies, Wong and Deputy Director Smith explained that two new staff are starting soon. There is no savings to carry over from vacancies. Wong explained that the savings from vacancies has kept the department from having to do layoffs in the last couple of years.

Administrators from each division provided updates on their respective areas. The Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) has received a grant to implement the juvenile detention screening statewide, which will apply more objective criteria to youth accused of low-level offenses. CJJP is also working to evaluate the effectiveness of justice programming. CJJP's Public Safety Advisory Board is working on a proposal to modify kidnapping law that would hopefully help prevent another situation like the Klunder murder/kidnapping.

Community Advocacy and Services (CAS) division reported receiving 77 applicants for the disability posting. Working in clusters has helped as the division deals with vacancies and makes new hires. New AmeriCorps members are training. They will help with the Iowa Youth Congress and State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council. Administrator Smith noted that the division is seeing fruits of staff's connections and collaborations.

Division of Community Action Agencies reported agencies were struggling to continue services despite no contracts in place and no funding coming in from the federal level. A federal government shutdown was just ending and Administrator Brand expected it would be another 3-6 weeks before his division would hear about federal funding. Ann Hughes from the Governor's Office asked several questions related to the funding. The division has been involved in writing CSBG standards so that DHR's concerns and input are reflected. Brand also discussed Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) administered by the division. The state legislature appropriated \$100,000 for FY2014. The program encourages low-income families to save for long-term asset development such as a home, business, education, car and/or assistive technology. The eligible individual puts money aside monthly for at least six months. When they reach their goal, the program matches the savings dollar-for-dollar up to \$2,000. This program builds long-term self-sufficiency while providing financial education, which is required.

Motion: Winter moved to accept the Department's annual report.

Second: Glass seconded.

Vote: Unanimous approval by voice vote.

Work Group Updates:

Advocacy – Chair Olsen said the work group had been remiss in its work. She challenged the board to suggest other solutions regarding Legislative recommendations. Olsen suggested getting input from commissions and putting together some draft language on positions. Wong noted that Olsen might need to call a special conference call meeting of the board to approve any positions. Glass suggested getting input from the four legislators serving on the DHR board also.

Motion by Mackey: The Board directs the advocacy work group to poll the commissions and board to articulate a position of advocacy for the Department of Human Rights Board.

Second: Soich seconded.

Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

Communication work group – Soich read the final draft of the elevator speech.

“The Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR) Board strives to break down economic and cultural barriers typically found in Iowa’s underrepresented populations. It accomplishes this goal through communication, education, and advocacy. The DHR board also identifies resources, financial and otherwise, to serve the needs of the underrepresented. The board consists of Governor-appointed members from each commission and council within the Department of Human Rights, as well as members of the public.”

Motion: Winter moved to adopt the elevator speech as presented.

Second: Jung

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Data work group – Jung said the work group needs to spend some time prioritizing and discussing what it can do next. Wong noted there might be some gaps in the initial data.

Commission Updates:

CJJP Planning and Advisory Council (Soich) - Paul covered Klunder. Also looking at 70% rule. For some convictions, people must serve 70% of sentence. Questions: Should robbery be a 70% sentence? Decided that robbery should continue to be defined as a forcible felony. Keep 15% cap so high risks can be incapacitated but modify the 70% mandatory minimum to allow release consideration for lower risks. There could be some discretion by the judges.

Native American Commission (Mackey) - Discussed ACA at least committee meeting. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is still a concern. The commission is focusing on DMC. Mackey was recently elected chair.

Senator Hart - Happy to meet with Director Wong this morning.

Public member (Winter) - A lot of things going on in Black Hawk County such as the loss of cousins and their advocacy, Community Action, Head Start, etc. Positive media accounts.

Commission on Community Action Agencies (Brown) – Administrator Brand already provided thorough report.

Commission on the Status of Women (Olsen) - Women-owned businesses are a commission priority. The commission continues to look at gender balance and encouraging women to seek higher office. Commission is working with Iowa Caregivers Association on legislation. The Friends group is paying for a lobbyist. The

commission needs more applicants for the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame, Write Women Back Into History and Capitol Girls.

Public Member (Glass) – Noted that much of the board's discussion impacts what Four Oaks does. Four Oaks treats juveniles with mental health issues.

Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (Jung) – API held an open house last month and contacts have been positive. Immigrant Entrepreneurial Summit is November 9, which draws more than 400 attendees annually.

Public comment: None.

Next year's meetings: The board will hold its first 2014 meeting in conjunction with the DHR Open House. Danielle Plogmann, staff, will work to schedule meetings for the rest of 2014.

Mackey moved to adjourn.

Olsen adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Klise/Danielle Plogmann, staff.